

My name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative and political representative for Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 35,000 Connecticut public and private employee members.

Council 4 supports:

S.B. No. 387 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE.

The goal of the minimum wage was to lift people out of poverty and make work pay. Surely, given the cost of living in Connecticut \$9 per hour is not too high, nor \$9.75 for the next year. Historically, our economy has been the envy of the world because it has been a strong consumption based economy. When a large number of citizens earn enough money to buy the things that make up the American Dream, we all prosper through increased job creation and economic churn. With the latest federal census showing that 50% of all Americans are somewhere between working poor and out right indigent, this wage hike is badly needed.

H.B. No. 5756 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING THE STANDARD WAGE BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF EMPLOYERS WHO RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES.

The practice of setting a prevailing wage for government financed work makes good sense, particularly in a recession. The government should not be in the business of encouraging the massive disparity in income that is now threatening our economy. It should be in the business of encouraging private industry to pay a fair wage that allows our country men and women the opportunity to access the American Dream.

H.B. No. 5713 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

Teaching labor history strengthens democracy. It is important for students in a democracy to know about and understand labor history, and its

strong link to freedom and liberty. The United States was arguably given birth to in a union hall, as the first two Continental Congresses were held in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia. The concept of an eight hour day and the first eight hour days were passed in the United States. The drive to end child labor, provide work place safety and workers' compensation for injured workers are all the product of the labor movement. The United States' labor laws have positively influenced the world, as other countries adopted many of the laws previously mentioned. Almost every great stride of freedom in the modern world has been greatly aided by the labor movement, particularly the fall of the Soviet Union which was initially led by the Solidarity labor union in Poland.